

MERCATOR:

O R,

Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Tuesday, October 20. to Thursday, October 22. 1713.

The Trade to France in English Goods, by way of Holland, asserted and demonstrated.

The like by way of Flanders.

The like by way of Genoa and Leghorn.

The whole Account brought to a Balance.

The Advantage of the French Trade undeniably plain.

BY all the Conduct of the Opposers of the French Trade, it appears, they are perfectly thoughtless of what we are now speaking of, (viz.) The Quantity of English Manufactures, &c. sent into France, not directly from England, but thro' other Countries.

In order to prevent the Cavils and Buffoonry of the Party, with which they support their deficient Arguments, the last *MERCATOR* directed them to the Maps of France, by which they will see, that some parts of the Dominions of the French King are so Situated, as that they can be no way supplied with English Goods, so as to have them at any reasonable Rates, but by way of Holland.

We told you, in order to remove the Cavils and Pretences of the Party, that the French have no Manufactures in those Countries; that they always did in those Parts Consume great Quantities of our Goods; and that this Matter no way respected the War in the least.

It is necessary a little to name the Parts, and describe the Situation of them, to make the Reason of this Case appear more plain and undeniable.

These Countries therefore are the Provinces of Champagne; the three Bishopricks of Metz, Toul, and Verdun; the Country of Lorrain, which may very well be said to be under French Dominion; part of the Provinces of Burgundy and Franche Compe, and all the upper and lower Alsacia; together with all that Country, which France possesses between the Saar and the Moselle, and between the Saar and the Rhine.

To Confirm what is alledged, it must first be proved, that these Countries cannot reasonably be supplied with our Goods from the Sea-Ports of France; and, secondly, that they are supplied from Holland.

That they cannot be supplied from the Sea-Coast of France, is evident to any one that considers their Situation: The City of Metz, which is the Mart of that part of the World for English Woollen Manufactures, may be the Standard for the rest, for it is the nearest of most of them; yet it is from Metz 156 English Miles to Dunkirk; 182 Miles to Diep or St. Vallery; 138 to Paris; 175 to Roan; It has no River-Navigation to any of these Places, nor within a Hundred Miles of it from any part of France: Which way then shall the English Goods be brought to Metz? Strasburgh is the Capital of Alsace; Nancy of Lorrain; the way to France by

these Parts is all by Metz: So that if Metz it self cannot be supplied from France, much less can the other. That they are supplied from Holland, the Situation answers for also.

On the other side, The City of Metz stands upon the Moselle, by which, and the Rhine, it has an open and very great Navigation directly from Rotterdam; Verdun stands upon the Maes, and has the like; Strasburgh upon the Rhine it self.

All the upper part of Champagne, from the City of Rheims, is supplied by the Maes, even almost to Burgogn; all the three Bishopricks; the Dutchies of Barr and Lorrain, and up to Franche Compe, are supplied from Metz, aforesaid, and by the Moselle; and Alsacia is fully furnished with English Goods from Holland by the Rhine; it can come no other way, unless some Hundreds of Miles by Land-Carriage.

If the Cavilling People object, that Lorrain and Barr are no part of France, that Cavil will but expose them; it may serve them for time to come indeed, but what is that to the Year 1685? Then it was all entirely in the French King's Possession; and wants but little of being so now.

The next Question then is, Do these Countries Consume any of our Manufactures? Indeed were we not talking to those, who by their own Confession do not understand, what they are talking about, this would be no Question; Since the City of Metz is known to be, as above, the Mart of that Side of France for English Goods, and there are said to be more Wholesale Woollen-Drapers, as we call them, than in any City in France, except Paris.

If then so great a Trade is driven in these Countries for our Woollen Manufactures, as is known to be by all the Merchants, who Trade that way; and that all these Goods are brought from Holland, the distance from any other Navigation making it impracticable to bring them any other way; then so much of our Woollen Goods as the Dutch send into France by those ways, is, and ought to be esteemed a Branch of our Exportation to France: If any thing can be said to Confute this, it would be much to the purpose to hear it; But the *MERCATOR* ventures to tell them, they cannot Confute it by any thing but Clamour.

We have a great Noise made of our great Exports to Holland, and it is true we do Export great Quantities of Goods to Holland; But do the Dutch Consume them



them at home, or send them forward to other Countries? Our Manufactures are sent to France, what is it to the Question, who sends them? It is our Business to have them go by all ways possible, and therefore it is our Interest to have the high Duties in France taken off, that all the ways of Carrying our Goods into France may be open; for if that is not done, the Dutch cannot Carry them in any more than we can. And this is the End of the Treaty of Commerce, which these Ignorant Men Oppose.

As Holland does this, so Flanders comes in for a share of this Trade; and all the *Pays-Conquis*, the Provinces of *Artois* and *Hainault*, the lower Parts of *Champaigne*, and the Frontiers of France it self are supplied with English Manufactures from Flanders: It would be absurd and ridiculous to think these Countries should fetch the Woollen Manufactures by Land-Carriage from any Port of France to which or from which they have no Navigation; but they are all supplied by the *Scheld* and the *Lys* from *Bruges* and *Ghent*, except *Lisle*, which is supposed to have some Goods by Land-Carriage from *Dunkirk*, which is not very far off: But all the City of *Arras*, the Country from *Donay* to *Cambray* and *Amiens*, and even into *Picardy* by *Perronne*, all is brought by the *Scheld*, as the part of *Champaigne* on that Side is by the *Sambre* quite to *Guise* and *la Fere*, and even to *Paris* it self: And the *MERCATOR* freely appeals to the Merchants, who deal this way for the Truth of this; and if they do not believe that an Hundred thousand Pounds

worth of English Manufactures and Merchandizes from England are sent that way into France, and yet we receive no French Goods back again by way of Flanders.

The Cities of *Genoa* and *Leghorn* will claim a share in the like Trade, tho' not with so evident a Necessity; and great Quantities of British Goods are every Year sent from those Ports to *Marseilles*, because our Ships bound to the *Levant* touch at *Leghorn*, and go on to *Naples*, the *Fate of Messina*, the *Gulph of Venice*, &c. and care not to go so deep into the Bay or Gulph of *Lyons* as to *Marseilles*, which is out of their way: For this Reason there was always a great Trade from *Leghorn* to France for English Goods, and the Quantity, tho' not easie to be guessed at, is very considerable.

However, as we can overlook great Sums in this Account, and have enough to spare them, the *MERCATOR* leaves it Unvalued, and only putting them in mind that it is so, passes it by as a Reserve.

It is time now to sum up the Articles on both sides, and begin to draw a Ballance of the Trade, that the Opposers of their Country's Good may see and blush at themselves, and that their Delusions may no more pass upon the poor abused People for Truths, or their Shams for Realities. And now it shall appear to all the World, who are Gainers by the French Trade, the French or We; and whether those, who are for the Trade, or those, who are for losing it, are Enemies to their Country.

Trade to France Debtor.

To Profit and Loss for Value Exported directly, from Michaelmas 1685 to Michaelmas 1686, as per Account <i>Mercator</i> N. 63.	l.	s.	d.
	742,077	4	2½
To Ditto for English Goods Exported to France via Holland in Ditto time	300,000	—	—
To Ditto via Flanders	100,000	—	—
To Ditto for the Corn Exported in dear Years, amounting one Year with another to a proportion of 50,000 Quarter, as is proved <i>Mercator</i> N. —	50,000	—	—
To Ditto for the Advance upon the Sale of 742,077 l. being six seventh Parts on English Account and Risque, at 10 per Cent.	64,200	—	—
To Cash for the Freight of 50,000 Ton of Shipping at 20 s. per Ton for Goods Exported to France, which being paid by the French, and being so much clear Money gain'd, is at 10 per Cent. Profit equal to the Export of Goods to the Value of	500,000	—	—
	1,756,277	4	2½

NOTE, If 10 per Cent. Profit be thought too much for the Trade, and they please to bring it to 5 l. per Cent. then the Gain of 50,000 l. by Freight, is equal to the Exportation of Ten hundred thousand Pounds in Goods, and either way it is equal in the Number of Poor employed.

NOTE ALSO, This is besides all the Ships employed in the bringing Goods from France, for they carry but few Goods out, as has been shewn, which at a moderate reckoning will be above Five hundred Sail of Ships, which are the Occasion of the Subsistence of thousands of Poor, as has been sufficiently described by the *MERCATOR*.

NOTE ALSO, This is besides all our Exported Goods which go to France via *Leghorn* and *Genoa*, which is a very great Sum; and besides several other

Trade to France Creditor.

By Profit and Loss for Goods Imported from Michaelmas 1685 to Michaelmas 1686, as per <i>Mercator</i> N. —	l.	s.	d.
	889,904	10	3
Trade Creditor by Gain to Ballance due to England	866,372	13	11½
	1,756,277	4	2½

NOTE, The *MERCATOR* has Accounts sent him of above 60,000 Cheat in the Value of the Importations set down in the Opposers Scheme more than he has taken notice of, which he shall signify in its place, and which must be discounted out of the Sum above, and added to the Ballance of the Trade, which when brought in, will make the Trade to France appear to be fairly to our Advantage in the Exports and Imports above Nine hundred thousand Pounds a Year.

Articles, which may be added hereafter, as, of the *Levant* Trade, Fish from *Newfoundland*, and the like.

ERRATA.

THE last *MERCATOR* being not revised, the following false Pointings have injur'd the Reading. Col. 1. l. 12. after *say* (;). lb. after *Leathersellers* (;). lb. l. 14. after *another* (;). lb. after *Dispers* (;) lb. l. 22. after *them* (;) lb. after *Accusers* (;) lb. l. 25. after *any* (;). lb. dele (,). lb. read *Speculator* in Italick join'd to *Falsidicus*, thus, *Speculator falsidicus sibi molestus*. Col. 2. l. 10. after *still* (;).